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THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE  
PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A method for controlling odor associated with  
5 deposits of organic material which can cause odors on  
carpets or other fibrous material, the method comprising  
applying to the carpet or other fibrous material or to the  
fibers used in the manufacture of the carpet or other  
10 fibrous material, a preparation of dormant bacteria, which  
when activated are effective to control odors, the dormant  
bacterial preparation being allowed to become associated  
with the carpet or other fibrous material such that when  
the carpet or other fibrous material is exposed to organic  
15 material which can cause odors, the bacteria are capable of  
becoming active and digesting the organic material.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the dormant  
bacteria are sporulated forms of one or more strains  
selected from the bacterial genera Bacillus.
- 20 3. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the dormant  
bacteria are sporulated forms of one or more strains  
selected from the group of bacterial species consisting  
essentially of Bacillus licheniformis, Bacillus pasteurii,  
25 Bacillus laevolacticus and Bacillus amyloliquefaciens.
4. A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the dormant  
bacteria are applied to the carpet at a concentration of  
between about  $10^6$  and about  $10^8$  cells per gram of carpet  
30 fiber.
5. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the dormant  
bacteria are applied to the carpet at a concentration of  
about  $10^7$  cells per gram of carpet fiber.

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6. A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the dormant bacterial preparation comprises:

|   | <u>Species</u>                    | <u>% of total bacteria</u><br><u>Range</u> |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| 5 | <u>Bacillus licheniformis</u>     | 20-60                                      |
|   | <u>Bacillus pasteurii</u>         | 10-30                                      |
|   | <u>Bacillus laevolacticus</u>     | 10-30                                      |
|   | <u>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</u> | 10-30                                      |

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7. A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the dormant bacterial preparation comprises:

|    | <u>Species</u>                    | <u>% of total bacteria</u> |
|----|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 15 | <u>Bacillus licheniformis</u>     | 40                         |
|    | <u>Bacillus pasteurii</u>         | 20                         |
|    | <u>Bacillus laevolacticus</u>     | 20                         |
|    | <u>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</u> | 20                         |

20 8. A method as claimed in claim 3 wherein the bacterial preparation includes one or more stain-blocking chemicals.

25 9. A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the one or more stain-blocking chemicals are selected from the group consisting of sulfonated phenol formaldehyde condensate polymer, sulfonated naphthol formaldehyde condensate polymer, and hydrolyzed vinyl aromatic maleic anhydride polymer.

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10. A method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the preparation contains an amount of the stain blocker to result in a treatment rate of the carpet of about 0.1 wt% to about 20 wt% based upon the weight of the carpet fiber.

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11. A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the treatment rate is from about 0.25 wt% to about 20 wt%.

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12. A method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the bacterial preparation further includes one or more anti-soil fluorochemicals.
- 5 13. An aqueous odor controlling bacterial composition for treating carpet or other fibrous material to impart odor control to the carpet or other fibrous material, the composition comprising one or more stain-blocker chemicals and an effective amount of dormant odor controlling  
10 bacteria.
14. An aqueous odor controlling bacterial composition as claimed in claim 13 wherein the dormant bacteria are one or more strains selected from the group of bacterial genera  
15 consisting of Bacillus, Enterobacter, Streptococcus, Nitrosomonas, Nitrobacter, Pseudomonas, Alcaligenes and Klebsiella.
15. An aqueous odor controlling bacterial composition  
20 as claimed in claim 14 wherein the dormant bacteria are one or more strains selected from the group of bacterial species consisting essentially of Bacillus licheniformis, Bacillus pasteurii, Bacillus laevolacticus and Bacillus amyloliquefaciens.
- 25 16. An aqueous odor controlling bacterial composition as claimed in claim 15 wherein the dormant bacteria are for application to a carpet or other fibrous material at a concentration of between about  $10^6$  and about  $10^8$  cells per  
30 gram of carpet fiber.
17. An aqueous odor controlling bacterial composition as claimed in claim 16 wherein the dormant bacteria are for application to a carpet or other fibrous material at a  
35 concentration of about  $10^7$  cells per gram of carpet fiber.

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18. An aqueous odor controlling bacterial composition as claimed in claim 15 wherein the dormant bacterial preparation comprises:

|   |                                   | <u>% of total bacteria</u> |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 5 | <u>Species</u>                    | <u>Range</u>               |
|   | <u>Bacillus licheniformis</u>     | 20-60                      |
|   | <u>Bacillus pasteurii</u>         | 10-30                      |
|   | <u>Bacillus laevolacticus</u>     | 10-30                      |
|   | <u>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</u> | 10-30                      |

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19. An aqueous odor controlling bacterial composition as claimed in claim 15 wherein the dormant bacterial preparation comprises:

|    |                                   | <u>% of total bacteria</u> |
|----|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 15 | <u>Species</u>                    |                            |
|    | <u>Bacillus licheniformis</u>     | 40                         |
|    | <u>Bacillus pasteurii</u>         | 20                         |
|    | <u>Bacillus laevolacticus</u>     | 20                         |
|    | <u>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</u> | 20                         |

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20. An aqueous odor controlling bacterial composition as claimed in claim 15 wherein the one or more stain-blocking chemicals are selected from the group consisting of sulfonated phenol formaldehyde condensate polymer, sulfonated naphthol formaldehyde condensate polymer, and hydrolyzed vinyl aromatic maleic anhydride polymer.

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21. An aqueous odor controlling bacterial composition as claimed in claim 20 wherein the preparation contains an amount of the stain blocker that an application results in a treatment rate of a carpet of about 0.1 wt% to about 20 wt% based upon the weight of the carpet fiber.

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22. An aqueous odor controlling bacterial composition as claimed in claim 21 wherein the treatment rate is from about 0.25 wt% to about 20 wt%.

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23. An aqueous odor controlling bacterial composition as claimed in claim 22 wherein the bacterial composition further includes one or more anti-soil fluorochemicals.
- 5 24. A carpet capable of controlling odor associated with deposits of organic material which can cause odors on the carpet, the carpet comprising fibers tufted through a primary backing, the fibers having associated therewith a preparation of dormant bacteria, which when activated are effective to control odors, such that when the carpet is exposed to organic material which can cause odors, the bacteria are capable of becoming active and digesting the organic material.
- 10 25. A carpet as claimed in claim 24 wherein the bacteria are one or more strains selected from the group of bacterial genera Bacillus.
- 15 26. A carpet as claimed in claim 24 wherein the bacteria are one or more strains selected from the group of bacterial species consisting essentially of Bacillus licheniformis, Bacillus pasteurii, Bacillus laevolacticus and Bacillus amyloliquefaciens.
- 20 27. A carpet as claimed in claim 26 wherein the dormant bacteria are applied to the carpet at a concentration of between about  $10^6$  and about  $10^8$  cells per gram of carpet fiber.
- 25 28. A carpet as claimed in claim 27 wherein the dormant bacteria are applied to the carpet at a concentration of about  $10^7$  cells per gram of carpet fiber.
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29. A carpet as claimed in claim 26 wherein the dormant bacterial preparation comprises:

|   |                                   | <u>% of total bacteria</u> |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 5 | <u>Species</u>                    | <u>Range</u>               |
|   | <u>Bacillus licheniformis</u>     | 20-60                      |
|   | <u>Bacillus pasteurii</u>         | 10-30                      |
|   | <u>Bacillus laevolacticus</u>     | 10-30                      |
|   | <u>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</u> | 10-30                      |

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30. A carpet as claimed in claim 26 wherein the dormant bacterial preparation comprises:

|    |                                   | <u>% of total bacteria</u> |
|----|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
|    | <u>Species</u>                    |                            |
| 15 | <u>Bacillus licheniformis</u>     | 40                         |
|    | <u>Bacillus pasteurii</u>         | 20                         |
|    | <u>Bacillus laevolacticus</u>     | 20                         |
|    | <u>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</u> | 20                         |

20 31. A carpet as claimed in claim 26 wherein the carpet has also been treated with one or more stain-blocking chemicals.

25 32. A carpet as claimed in claim 31 wherein the one or more stain-blocking chemicals are selected from the group consisting of sulfonated phenol formaldehyde condensate polymer, sulfonated naphthol formaldehyde condensate polymer, and hydrolyzed vinyl aromatic maleic anhydride polymer.

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33. A carpet as claimed in claim 32 wherein the preparation contains an amount of the stain blocker to result in a treatment rate of the carpet of about 0.1 wt% to about 20 wt% based upon the weight of the carpet fiber.

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34. A carpet as claimed in claim 33 wherein the treatment rate is from about 0.25 wt% to about 20 wt%.

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35. A carpet as claimed in claim 32 wherein the carpet has also been treated with one or more anti-soil fluorochemicals.